

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06519 141315Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 DLOS-09 CG-00
DOTE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 OES-07 ACDA-12 EUR-12
/105 W

-----012191 141321Z /53

O 141048Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7088
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
COMNAVFORJAP YOKOSUKA JA
AMCONSUL NAHA
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
OAC CAMP BUTLER OKINAWAJA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 06519

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, JA, CH
SUBJECT: SENKAKU ISLANDS: U.S. FORCES FACILITIES

REF: TOKYO 6393
1. JAPANESE NEWSMAN CLOSE TO LDP SECRETARY-GENERAL
OHIRA INFORMED EMBOFF THAT LATTER ALLEGEDLY BELIEVED
ONE REASON FOR PRESENCE OF CHINESE-FISHING BOATS IN
JAPANESE-CLAIMED TERRITORIAL WATERS OFF SENKAKU ISLANDS
(REFTTEL) WAS THAT GOJ HAD ALLOWED SOME OF THOSE ISLANDS
TO BE USED BY US MILITARY FOR BOMBING AND SHELLING
PRACTICE. OHIRA SAID TO HAVE TOLD REPORTERS ON
BACKGROUND THAT THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM RECENT MOFA
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DOCUMENTS.

2. MOFA CHINA DIVISION OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF
APRIL 14 THAT HEAD OF CHINA DIVISION SENT PERSONAL MEMO-
RANDUM TO LDP GENERAL AFFAIRS DIVISION MARCH 24, AS
BACKGROUND FOR USE IN EXPLAINING GOJ POLICY RE SENKAKUS.
AS ONE EXAMPLE OF GOJ CONTROL OF AREA, MEMORANDUM STATED

THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH MST, US FORCES HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO UTILIZE SENKAKU ISLANDS OF KUBAJIMA AND TAISHO-JIMA AS BOMBING/GUNNERY RANGES.

3. BOMBINGGUNNERY RANGES IN QUESTION ARE UNDER NAVY CONTROL AND CARRIED IN US RECORDS AS:

(A) KOBISHO RANGE (AIR TO GROUND), USFJ FACILITY NO. 6084, 25 DEGREE 55' N LATITUDE 123 DEGREE 45' E LONGITUDE.

(B) SEKIBISHO (AIR TO GROUND, SHIP TO SHORE), USFJ FACILITY NO. 6085, 25 DEGREE 54' N LATITUDE, 124 DEGREE 34' LONGITUDE.

BEST AVAILABLE DATA INDICATES THAT KOBISHO HAS BEEN UTILIZED SINCE JULY 1958 AND SEKIBISHO SINCE 1956. LAST UTILIZATION WAS DECEMBER 14-15, 1977 AND NAVY REPORTS NO PLANS TO UTILIZE RANGES IN NEAR FUTURE. BOTH RANGES ARE COVERED BY MEMOS PERTAINING TO US FACILITIES APPROVED BY JOINT COMMITTEE MAY 15, 1972 IN CONNECTION WITH OKINAWA REVERSION.

4. IN DISCUSSING REPORTED OHIRA COMMENT WITH SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF TAMBA, LATTER AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT, PUZZLING AS PRC MOTIVES WERE, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE
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US FACILITIES HAD MUCH TO DO WITH DISPATCH OF FISHING FLEET--AFTER ALL, WHY DID THEY WAIT ALMOST SIX YEARS AFTER REVERSION.

5. LOCAL WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT IS AWARE OF US FORCES UTILIZATION ASPECT OF STORY AND HAS ASKED FOR EMBASSY CONFIRMATION. WE HAVE THUS FAR DECLINED TO COMMENT. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN BE AUTHORIZED TO COMMENT ALONG LINE THAT LONG-STANDING US FORCES UTILIZATION OF RANGE IN QUESTION HAS GROWN OUT OF FACT OF JAPAN'S EXERCISE OF FACTO SOVERIEGNTY OVER ISLANDS AND THAT UNITED STATES HAS NOT TAKEN FORMAL POSITION AS TO SOVEREIGNTY. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, JA, CH
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